

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Reading to a class of 2nd-grade students at John Winthrop Elementary School in Bridgeport as part of Read Across America Day and the birthday of Dr. Suess.

No Power Plant for Nichols

I'm pleased to report that plans to build a power plant in the heart of Trumbull have been withdrawn. A grassroots bipartisan effort, which I was proud to join, helped the company realize that the project wasn't a good fit for Trumbull. The issue also prompted me to help introduce legislation that would change how the Siting Council issues permits for such facilities.



Protecting Neighborhoods from Foreclosure Fallout

The foreclosure mediation program we created in 2008—and made mandatory in 2009—is a landmark effort that has helped to keep more than 3,300 families and individuals in their homes since it began. This year, I supported extending this successful program for another two years and worked to help find the necessary funding.

Foreclosure affects communities as well as individuals. It brings down property values, encourages blight and crime and impacts our local economy. The proven foreclosure mediation program will help protect our families and neighborhoods as we continue to cope with the effects of the nationwide recession. *See the other side of this mailer for additional info.*

Making Our Brownfields Green Again



Photo courtesy of Josh Michlom

funding to make our land safe, productive and beautiful.




Dear Neighbor,

Everywhere I go constituents tell me the same thing: they want state government to focus on growing jobs and balancing the budget. I got the message.

This session we worked with Governor Rell to pass a historic bipartisan jobs bill. The initiative helps businesses get access to the capital and credit that they need to thrive. We also made Connecticut an easier place to do business by cutting back on bureaucratic red tape and streamlining the regulatory process.

We tackled the budget deficit the same way. By working together, we balanced the budget without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we made significant cuts to state spending, maximized federal aid, and reduced borrowing.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you as Connecticut continues on the road to recovery.

Sincerely,  
  
Anthony J. Musto  
State Senator

Stay Informed in a "Green" Way




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State Senator  
**Anthony J. Musto**

Legislative Office Building, Room 2100, Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
[www.SenatorMusto.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorMusto.cga.ct.gov)  
[Musto@senatedems.ct.gov](mailto:Musto@senatedems.ct.gov)  
1-800-842-1420

I'm proud to represent the citizens of  
**Bridgeport, Monroe & Trumbull**

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SENATOR **Anthony J. Musto**  
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SUMMER 2010

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

## NEW LAWS

### Lowering Energy Prices

I voted for landmark energy reform legislation this year—the most important in over a decade—that targets a 15 percent reduction in our electric rates, increases our commitment to Connecticut-based renewable energy generation, consolidates various state energy entities and provides assistance for state residents to make efficiency and renewable energy improvements in their own homes. Unfortunately, these important measures were vetoed by the governor.



### Cracking Down on a Children's Health Risk

According to a recent report, since toxic lead was banned from use in children's toys, some Chinese manufacturers have been turning to another toxic heavy metal: cadmium. It is common in children's jewelry and can cause short- and long-term health concerns. So, beginning July 1, 2014, Connecticut will ban the sale of children's jewelry containing significant amounts of cadmium. The bipartisan initiative will help protect children and give parents more peace of mind.

### Extending Safe Harbor to Exploited Children

No children should have to carry the stigma of a felony conviction for the rest of their lives because of victimization by an adult. In bipartisan action, we extended safe harbor to minors by creating the presumption that a child charged with prostitution was coerced into committing the offense by another person. Human trafficking is a felony, a crime for which children should not have to bear the burden of prosecution.



## GROWING JOBS

### Connecticut's Landmark Jobs Bill

There was no greater priority this legislative session than helping Connecticut create high-quality jobs. We worked with Governor Rell to do just that. Some economists call our landmark bipartisan jobs bill the most important jobs initiative that the General Assembly has ever considered.



Provisions of the new law include:

- ▶ Loans and lines of credit for small businesses to help fund expansions, additional hires or new equipment
- ▶ Sales-tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- ▶ Loan reimbursements and training grants for education and careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- ▶ Pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- ▶ Tax credits for angel investments in bioscience, photonics, information technology and green technology businesses

This law is an example of what can happen when business leaders, academics and small-business owners from across the state come together with one common goal: help Connecticut grow jobs.



### Helping Small Businesses in Tough Times

Small business is the engine that drives Connecticut's economy. With that in mind, we retroactively extended tax exemptions to business owners in targeted investment communities and enterprise zones that have purchased machinery and equipment used for manufacturing, biotechnology or recycling. I'm happy to announce that businesses located in Bridgeport qualify for this tax exemption.

## SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

- ▶ **Choose Your Electric Supplier**  
The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by ten percent. 1-888-922-3782 or [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com)

## FOR SENIORS

- ▶ **Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)**  
By joining MSP, eligible seniors could save \$1,000 per year or more in Medicare Part B premiums, and the Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy would lower prescription co-payments. Most individuals in ConnPACE are eligible for Medicare and can enroll in MSP.

As a ConnPACE member, your pharmacy co-payment is now \$16.25. Your pharmacy co-pay could be reduced to as low as \$2.50 for generics and \$6.30 for brand-name drugs on Medicare Part D's Drug list. For more information, call CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422, speak to a representative at 211, or visit [www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms](http://www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms).



## JOB RESOURCES

- ▶ **Where to Turn When Unemployed**  
The United Way of Connecticut has produced a document titled "Where to Turn in Connecticut When You Become Unemployed." It contains information regarding unemployment insurance, medical benefits, legal assistance and help with job searches and money management. Contact my office at 1-800-842-1420 to receive this helpful publication or visit [www.senatedems.ct.gov/Jobs](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/Jobs) to download a copy.

## RESOURCES FOR FORECLOSURE RELIEF

- ▶ **The First Step in Connecticut**  
If you're having trouble paying your mortgage, or are facing delinquency or foreclosure, contact one of Connecticut's Housing Counseling Agencies. Each agency is prepared to give advice, screen your eligibility for potential assistance programs and offer other resources to help you keep your home. In Bridgeport, call Acorn Housing Corp. at 203-366-4180. You can also contact my office at 1-800-842-1420.

## CONSUMER PROTECTION

- ▶ **Making the "Do Not Call" List Stronger**  
Current law allows the state to impose fines for violations of the "No Sales Solicitation Calls" statute under the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, and legislation passed this year would allow the state to impose an additional \$11,000 fine. To register a telephone number, consumers may call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-888-382-1222 or the state Department of Consumer Protection at 1-800-842-2649.

